Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02818 021507Z

70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 CU-04 AID-05 EB-07 HEW-06

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6927

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2818

FOR: AMB. WILLIAM MAILLIARD ARA/USOAS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: TENTH MEETING OF OAS INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON CULTURE
(CIDEC) MAY 26-30, ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

1. SUMMARY: SURPRISING AMOUNT OF ATTENTION ACCORDED SUBJECT COMMITTEE OF FIVE BY GOG AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS. WHILE COMMITTEE APPRECIATIVE OF HEW SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT PROMISED AT MEXICO MEETING IF INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC) FAIL TO UNDERSTAND U.S. INABILITY TO OVERCOME ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES PRECLUDING DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OAS CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO UNESCO PROGRAMS IN CULTURE. RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WOULD CONFIRM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS BEFORE OAS GA CONCERNING U.S. INTEREST IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE IMPRESSIVELY CAPABLE, DEDICATED WORKERS.
2. INAUGURAL SESSION IN ANTIGUA INCLUDED PARTICIPATION MINISTER AND VICE MINISTER OF DEUCATION, GOVERNOR AND MAYOR OF ANTIGUA PLUS NUMEROUS OTHER GOG OFFICIALS. NOON RECEPTION HOSTED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION. BALANCE OF DAY SPENT IN SELECTING PRESIDENT OF COMMITTEE, DR. ABAD, ECUADOR AND ESTABLISHING WORK SCHEDULE.

3. LONG DISCUSSION ENSUED CONCERNING DEFINITION OF CULTURE
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 02818 021507Z

RESULTING IN REAFIRMATION OF NEED TO DETERMINE CULTURAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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POLICY FOR THE AMERICAS. OAS SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL POINTED
OUT THAT ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. HAD RES-
PONDED TO THEIR REQUEST FOR COUNTRY COMMENTS ON CULTURAL
POLICY NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH HEMISPHERIC POLICY.

4. COMMITTEE AGAIN STRESSED NEED TO INCLUDE, IN MAR DEL
PLATA PROGRAM, THOSE CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN THE CATEGORY OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. PRESENTATION MADE TO COMMITTEE ON HEW SEC. WEINBERGER'S
CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CULTURE PROMISED AT
CIECC MEETING. COMMITTEE INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH EFFORTS
TO DATE BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD OVERCOME ADMINIS-
TRATIVE OBSTACLES PRECLUDING DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

6. FIFTEEN NEW PROJECTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE OF
WHICH ELEVEN APPROVED. THREE OF THE APPROVED
PROJECTS WERE DEFERRED PENDING PAYMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S
QUOTA. THUS, WHILE THE U.S. PROJECT FOR COMPUTER STANDARDIZA-
TION OF LIBRARY CATALOGING (MARCAL) SUBMITTED BY THE LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS WAS APPROVED, IMPLEMENTATION IS DEFERRED PENDING
A U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CULTURAL FUND.

7. PROGRAMS FOR 76/82 PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARIAT DIS-
CUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY. COMMITTEE STRESSED IMPORTANCE
OF NEED FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS TO ACCURATELY REFLECT OAS MEMBER
COUNTRIES' PRIOITIES IN CULTURE. TO THIS END, RECOMMENDATION
MADE THAT SECRETARIAT SOLICIT, FROM EACH COUNTY, ANTICIPATED
FURUTE PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS IN CULTURAL AREA.

8. CLOSING CEREMONIES ATTENDED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION
AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS WITH SUBSEQUENT GOG HOSTED RECEPTION.
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